

MAGIC MAILBOX

Ever wonder what a gas is? Scientists commonly describe things as being a solid, a liquid, or a gas. Solids hold their shape. Liquids flow into the shape of a container. But gases, which you usually can't see, expand out in all directions to fill a container – such as a hot air balloon!

Ever wonder what air is? The air all around you is made up of a very special mixture of gases, including hydrogen, oxygen and carbon. When we breathe in, we are taking in a gas (oxygen) that our body needs. When we breathe out, we are blowing out the gases that our body doesn't need. This mixture of gases called "air" only exists here on Earth -- that's why astronauts have to take air tanks with them into outer space!

Postcard Picture: Print this page, cut out the picture and tape it to your little scientist's postcard.

